

*Following is a summary of important business news published in the leading daily newspapers of Bangladesh. For the complete news, please follow the online link given below each news. Please note that the news summary doesn't reflect the opinion of BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited.*

### **Jan imports near USD 6.5b**

- The country's single-month import payments reached nearly USD 6.50 billion in January 2022, following higher purchase of textile items from the global market to supply buyers' orders properly. The settlement of letters of credit (LCs) rose by nearly 7.0 % to USD 6.41 billion in January - from nearly USD 6.0 billion in the previous month. It was USD 5.54 billion in November 2021.
- On the other hand, opening of LCs increased by 11.18 % to USD6.86 billion in January - from USD 6.17 billion a month before. Imports of textile products under back-to-back LC settlement increased nearly 8.0% to USD818.42 million in January from USD758.33 million a month before.
- Actual imports of fuel-oils dropped by 39.63% to USD 215.67 million in January from USD 357.27 million in the previous month. However, imports of capital machinery or industrial equipment used for production dropped by over 40 % to USD 361.59 million in January against USD 606.21 million a month before.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/jan-imports-near-65b-1645986792>

### **Megaprojects want big cuts in ADP allocations**

- The project implementation agencies have failed to make progress commensurate with the deadlines and surrendered their outlay in the current ADP, Planning Commission (PC) officials said. The PC has slashed the BDT 2.25 trillion ADP outlay by 8.0% to BDT 2.07 trillion for the current FY amid lower project execution rate in the first half (H1).
- The much-awaited Padma Bridge construction project has proposed to surrender BDT 10 billion in the upcoming RADP from its current BDT 35 billion ADP outlay. After the revised allocation for FY 2021-22, BDT 42.41 billion of the total BDT 301.93 billion project cost will remain unspent in the terminal fiscal year (FY2023), the deadline for completing the projects.
- Another dream project - the MRT line-6 -also sought BDT 40.82 billion funds in the upcoming RADP from its current allocations of BDT 48 billion. The Karnaphuli tunnel construction project sought to cut allocation by BDT 5.12 billion to BDT 11.37 billion in the RADP.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/last-page/megaprojects-want-big-cuts-in-adp-allocations-1645986935>

### **NBR goes all-out to boost tax revenue for better economic growth**

- NBR has recently witnessed a 9.51% growth in individual income tax return submission. The revenue target for the NBR for FY22 has been fixed at 10.7%, higher than the revised target of FY21. The revenue collection was set at BDT 3.3 trillion during FY22. The tax to GDP ratio in the current fiscal has been estimated at 10.7%.
- The target for Income Tax and Tax on Profit has been set BDT 1.05 trillion where it was BDT 1.04 trillion in the last fiscal. The revenue collection from import duty will be BDT 379.07 billion, BDT 544.65 billion from Supplementary Duty, BDT 560 million from export duty, BDT 38.25 billion from Excise Duty while BDT 10.50 billion from other taxes and duties.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/nbr-goes-all-out-to-boost-tax-revenue-for-better-economic-growth-1645985329>

**Cargo vehicle terminal construction begins at Benapole port**

- The construction of the cargo vehicles terminal at the Benapole Port has begun as the government looks to improve the capacity of the largest land port in South Asia. The terminal will allow the port to handle an increasing flow of goods of international trade, particularly between Bangladesh and India. The port accounts for 90% of the total trades that take place through land ports.
- The handling of export and import cargoes at the port grew 74% to 3.1 million tonnes in 2020-21, compared to 1.76 million tonnes in FY16. Imports accounted for 90 per cent of the total goods. The port now handles nearly 700 trucks carrying inbound and outbound goods and can accommodate about 1,100 trucks in three of its terminals. After the construction of the new cargo terminal, the combined capacity of the port will be 2,500 trucks.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/industries/ports-and-shipping/news/cargo-vehicle-terminal-construction-begins-benapole-port-2972101>

**SWIFT expulsion to disrupt payments for time being**

- Bangladesh is executing its trade-related and other transactions with Russia through SWIFT. The country's trade-related transactions with Russia were USD 1.18 billion in the fiscal year 2018-2019 and the amount was USD 1.12 billion in FY18. Russia is implementing two major projects — Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant at the cost of USD 12.65 billion and the second satellite at the cost of BDT 37.1 billion in Bangladesh.
- Apart from using the alternative payment channel, the government is in the process of introducing a currency swap between Bangladesh and Russia to ease trade and business. The BB has already sent the proposal to the foreign ministry for the next measures but is yet to be materialized.

<https://www.newagebd.net/article/163932/swift-expulsion-to-disrupt-payments-for-time-being>

**Standard 4G internet speed still elusive**

- Mobile users in Bangladesh are suffering from slower data speed despite the launch of 4G technology four years ago, as operators have failed to ensure the minimum internet speed set by the regulator. During the drive-tests last year, the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) found that the mobile operators could not maintain the minimum speed of 7 Mbps as standard for 4G.
- Chief corporate and regulatory officer of Robi Axiata said due to a lack of affordable spectrum and unreliable and poor quality of optical fibre network, the mobile network operators did not agree to any minimum speed limit proposed by our regulator.
- Head of corporate communications and sustainability of Banglalink said that the operator deployed the new 9.4 MHz spectrum purchased last year. As a result, they have been able to provide better and considerably improved services for their customers.
- He also said that high spectrum prices, higher tax rates, and lower 4G handset penetration are the major barriers facing the industry today. The lack of a level playing field in the market is another concern, he added. Moreover, regulatory support for achieving efficiency through sharing of facilities and services such as tower/in-building solutions, radio access network, and spectrum is also necessary, he said.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/telecom/news/standard-4g-internet-speed-still-elusive-2972221>

**BSEC orders flurry of actions on back-office software use**

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) on Sunday directed the bourses to take an array of

actions on the use of back-office software by brokerage firms. The move comes in the wake of the revelation of a defrauding scheme using multiple back-office software by brokerage firm Tamha Securities.

- Sources said 19 firms supplied back-office software among the member firms of the stock exchanges. The DSE and CSE have also been instructed to frame policies for hardware and software installation, security and network installation for the brokerage firms. The stock exchanges must inform the commission after permitting a vendor.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-orders-flurry-actions-back-office-software-use-377362>

### **Renata to take over two subsidiaries**

- Renata, a listed company, will take over two subsidiary companies with their all assets and liabilities, said a disclosure. The company's board of directors has taken the decision and approved draft scheme of amalgamation unanimously. The subsidiary companies which will be taken over by Renata are Renata Agro Industries and Purnava.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/renata-to-take-over-two-subsidiaries-1645978925>

### **Nurani Dyeing entrepreneurs flee with entire IPO fund**

- The BDT 430 million initial public offering (IPO) in 2017 by Nurani Dyeing and Sweater Ltd – a Feni-based sweater exporter – has been proved to be a fraudulent scheme. It was filing fake turnover and fake fund utilisation reports, until the DSE inspection in the mid-2020 found the factory permanently closed.
- BDT 293.4 million of the IPO fund was taken away through cash withdrawal or bank transfers to different related parties' accounts. Nurani Dyeing also concealed its liability to AB Bank by over BDT 1,100 million and its financial disclosures regarding interest expenses were all false.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/nurani-dyeing-entrepreneurs-flee-entire-ipo-fund-377368>

**World Stock and Commodities\***

<b>Index Name</b>	<b>Close Value</b>	<b>Value Change YTD</b>	<b>% Change YTD</b>
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 96.14	USD 20.93	27.83%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 102.24	USD 24.46	31.45%
Gold Spot*	USD 1,911.72	USD 82.52	4.51%
DSEX	6,676.14	-80.51	-1.19%
S&P 500	4,384.62	-381.56	-8.01%
FTSE 100	7,489.46	104.92	1.42%
BSE SENSEX	55,858.52	-2,395.30	-4.11%
KSE-100	43,984.24	-611.83	-1.37%
CSEALL	11,107.90	-1,118.11	-9.15%

**Exchange Rates****1 US Dollar = 85.84 BDT****1 GBP = 114.70 BDT****1 Euro = 95.86 BDT****1 INR = 1.14 BDT**

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